Demonstrations against Government Policy

2683. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether nation-wide demonstrations were held on the 24th July, 2001 by all the Central Trade Unions against the present policies of Government vis-a-vis labour;

(b) if so, the specific demands of the unions; and

(c) the action taken by Government to redress the problems raised by the Trade Unions?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYA NARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (c) It has been reported that the Confederation of Central Government Employees' and Workers and All India State Government Employees' Federation had given a call for a one day nation-wide strike on 25.7.2001. The concerns of the workers' organisations have been noted so that reforms in labour laws are made in keeping with the requirement of the social partners in the context of globalisation and the imperative to raise poductivity and competitiveness.

Workers Opting for VRS

2684. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of workers who have opted VRS during the last three years in both private sector and public sector;

(b) the number of workers employed through Employment Exchanges during the same period in both private and public sector;

(c) the amount spent on VRS; and

(d) the amount spent on revival of sick industries?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYA NARAYAN JATIYA): (a) TheCentral Government does not maintain information in regard to VRS in State Public Sector Undertakings and Private Sector. However so far as Central Public Sector Undertakings are concerned according to available information approximately one lakh workers/ employees availed of VRS during the last 3 years i.e. 1998-99 to 2000-2001.

(b) The total number of placements effected by the Employment Exchanges during 1998. 1999 and 2000 in both Public and Private Sector was 6.32 lakh.

(c) The total amount spent on VRS between 1998-99 and 2000-2001 was around Rs. 820 crore.

(d) A number of measures are required for revival of sick industries which include conversion of loans into equity, waiver/postponement of interest payment/loans